

Tips to improve your revision strategies

Below is a list of revision strategies that will help you to revise effectively. Keep in mind that the suitability of certain revision strategies depends on what you are studying.

Selecting and preparing exam-relevant material

- Avoid “blind” studying! Do not make the mistake of trying to take in everything at once, but rather create an overview of your revision material, e.g. in the form of mind maps.
- Take notes during lectures, even if there are scripts and/or textbooks. This way, you’ll be more attentive and have a better chance of effectively memorizing the contents of the lecture.
- Highlight the important keywords in the texts and pencil in any connections as a way of linking sections that belong together.
- Sum up the content of every paragraph.

Memorizing exam-relevant content

The method of loci

- In your head, create mental connections between the facts you’re needed to know (e.g., historical dates, order of chemical elements) and places you frequent on a day-to-day basis (e.g., bus stops on your way to university).

Mind maps

- Mind maps are ideal for visualizing and learning the content of a specific topic. You can use them to plan and structure notes.

Chain-technique

- Write down the content you’re revising in the form of a short story. This will make it easier to memorize than if you were simply to try to memorize individual facts, numbers, terminology etc. It will also help you remember the content in the correct order.

Flash cards

- Make flash cards and look at them every so often. Try to increase the intervals in between each time you use them.

(Fictional) dialog partner

- Explain what you have learned in as much detail as possible to a (fictional) dialog partner and let them quiz you on your exam topics. This way, you will notice where your weaknesses lie, enabling you to then work on them specifically.

Cheat sheet

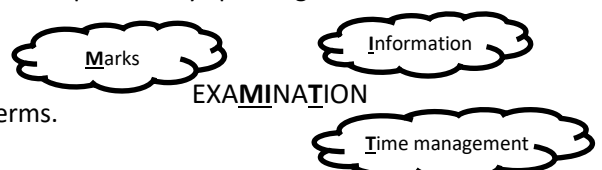
- Write down important facts on a “cheat sheet” (on both sides). By doing this, you will activate processing mechanisms in your brain which will help you memorize the content successfully. You’ll then have no need for this sheet on the day.

Write down exam questions

- Find potential exam questions, which you can repeat in order to reflect upon important content. Differentiate between written and oral exams. For oral exams, you should practice by speaking out loud and for written exams in writing.

Word-picture-technique

- Be creative in associating pictures with exam-relevant terms.



Literature

Compact Redaktion (2009). *Das Buch der Lern-Techniken.* München: Compact. **Lehner, M. (2015).** *Viel Stoff- schnell gelernt. Prüfungen optimal vorbereiten.* Göttingen: Die Werkstatt. **Voss, R. (2012).** *Studi-Coach. Studieren für Anfänger.* Konstanz: UVK.